

HB-6355

March 5, 2021

Thank you, Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, ranking members Kissel and Fishbein and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Janet Rice. I am from Bloomfield. I am the Community Outreach Coordinator for CT Against Gun Violence and I am also a gun violence survivor.

In October 2012, my only child was taken from me by gun violence. In August 2005, my nephew Jerold took his own life. In front of his twin brother, his older sister and his then 4month old daughter who was asleep on his sister's bed. He was depressed and didn't know how to deal with it. If I knew then, what I know now maybe just maybe a little 15year old girl would have her daddy today.

Allowing family members to petition the court directly, as 12 other states do, provides an alternative means of initiating the process for people who are reluctant to involve law enforcement at the outset, because they fear law enforcement or are concerned about stigmatizing the gun owner as a criminal.

I ask that you favorably report **HB-6355** out of committee so that the General Assembly can vote to strengthen our Extreme Risk Protection law so that it works harder to prevent firearm suicide and homicide. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet Rice

Bloomfield, CT